



## Being an Historical Investigator

### History

B. 1, Ind. 5

B. 7, Ind. 2

1. Pass out pictures of items and activities from the the Fort Larned Virtual Trunk to the students. Explain to students that they are going to play the role of historical investigators.

2. Have them make two columns on a piece of paper, one titled “Name and purpose of object” and the other “ User”.

3. Have the students look at the pictures one at a time and then put down their hypotheses as to the answers (have students work independently at this time).

4. After all pictures have been shown, have students write three basic statements as to what these objects tell us about the place they came from or the people who used them. (e.g., women are present, this is a military location, horses are present, Indians were there)

5. Go back over each picture and get students to volunteer their guesses as to the purpose of the object and its user. Come to a consensus and then discuss what the objects say about the place.



## Being an Historical Investigator Continued

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6. Tell students that these objects come from Ft. Larned and are typical of what one might have seen had they been a visitor to the Fort during its active time in the 1860s and 1870s. If you are planning an on-site visit, tell students these are the kind of things they will see when they go to Fort Larned. If you can't visit, tell students that the lessons that follow will tell them more about what it was like for the people who used the objects in the virtual trunk during their time at the Fort.

7. Explain to the children that although life seems difficult compared to modern comforts and conveniences there were advantages to living on an Army post. The accommodations were often better than what settlers in the surrounding area had. Also, officer's children had more advantages than the children of settlers: better housing, food and education.

8. Distribute the Read Kansas card on Fort Larned. This will provide students with a brief overview of the purpose of the establishment of Fort Larned. After reading independently, have students answer the multiple choice worksheet as a way to quickly review their grasp of the facts. (attached)